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SOURCE Minju Chosun.

CABINET ADOPTS NEW FARM ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

The Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has adopted new agricultural policies for 1950 under Cabinet Decision No 20, dated 25 January 1950.

The agricultural accomplishments for 1949 under the Two-Year People's Economic Program were generally successful. During 1949, distribution of chemical fertilizer was 113 percent of 1948; animal manure production was 110.7 percent of 1948. It was recorded that during the first half of 1949, as many as 680,000 pieces of farm implements were in use. Also, 3,276 water pumps were mobilized to irrigate 16,968 chungbo [one chungbo equals 2.451 acres] of rice fields, and 18,601 small canals were built to channel water to 68,387 chungbo of rice fields and 25,489 chungbo of dry fields. Special efforts were made to teach farmers new farm methods, and more than 1,470,000 farmers have attended the special training courses during 1949.

However, in contrast to these accomplishments the following shortcomings have been noted:

1. There have been some indications that the farm programs for 1949 were carried out mechanically. In Hagoso-myon in Pukch'ing-kun, Hamgyong Namdo, for example, each farmer was given an equal plot of 50 p'yong [one p'yong equals 6 x 6 feet] of land, without regard to the different farming ability of individual farmers.

2. Certain local people's committees have been neglecting seed farming to get the best quality of seeds for grain and vegetables. The farms in Sinch'on-kun, Hwanghae Do, yielded such poor grades of seeds that several tons had to be dumped. The farmers in Kusong-kun, P'yongan Pukto, did not bother with the seed farming at all.

3. Technical training in seed farming has been neglected too frequently. In Chagang Do, 1,579 p'yong of land were allocated for seed farming, but 78.8 percent of this acreage was wasted. In Kangwon Do, only 80 percent of the rice fields were transplanted.

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4. Although adequate instructions were issued to utilize the natural fertilizers obtained from the fields, because of high potency of these fertilizers, such instructions were ignored by many farmers. For example, Samsu-kun, in Hamgyong Namdo, is known for its abundance of hay, but by 30 September 1949 only 20 percent of it was utilized.

5. In many instances it was found that farmers had failed to sow the seeds at the proper time as instructed. In P'yongan Namdo, only 46.6 percent of the young rice plants were transplanted by the deadline on 20 June 1949.

6. Efforts were constantly made to publicize wider uses of threshing machines, mechanical plows, and other machinery, but some localities have been uncooperative. Of the 27 mechanical plows sent to Chaeryong-myon, Chaeryong-kun, Hwanghae Do, only three were used.

7. Lack of cooperation from the farmers made it almost impossible to prevent drought damages in some areas. Of the 19,000 chungbo of dry fields that needed irrigation in Hwanghae Do, only 325 chungbo were irrigated, notwithstanding an abundant supply of water.

In view of the above facts, the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has established a new goal for 1950, which will be 115.9 percent of that of 1949. To accomplish this goal the Cabinet has reached the following decisions:

Increase of Agricultural Production

1. The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and the chairmen of respective provincial people's committees [hereinafter referred to as the authorities concerned], with the support of local people's committees, are instructed to make a thorough survey of climatic and soil conditions of the locality concerned, before the end of February 1950. The authorities concerned may solicit cooperation from the farmers for the survey project.

2. Plans must be made to increase the crop acreage for the industrial and medicinal farm products such as soybeans, castor beans, cotton, hemp, etc. Also, to insure adequate supply of vegetables for workers and city dwellers, special provisions must be made to increase vegetable gardens in the areas surrounding cities, and industrial and mining centers.

Seed Farming

1. The authorities concerned shall be responsible for:

a. An adequate supply of high-grade seeds and supervision of proper distribution, field preparations, and the sowing of seeds. The authorities concerned are required to complete the organization of supervisory machinery for the above purposes before the end of February 1950.

b. Constant supervision of seed-farming operations to secure high-quality seeds. The farmers must realize that the good crops depend on good seed.

2. Where the supply of high-grade seed is inadequate and the problem cannot be solved locally, the Bureau of Food Administration may be requested by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to furnish grains and other seeds that were collected as tax in kind. Such seeds may be supplied to the localities in exchange for other farm produce.

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3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry must assist in every possible way all agricultural experimental stations in their research and experiments of seeds, soil, climate, etc.

Early Plowing

1. The authorities concerned must insure that fields not plowed in the autumn are plowed in the spring as soon as the ground can be broken, and that the plowed ground be smoothed as soon as the thawing season is over.

2. Draft animals and implements necessary for spring sowing must be supplied locally, although the authorities concerned shall be responsible for an adequate supply thereof by 10 March 1950. Also, the authorities must make certain that not a single plow is found idle during the plowing season.

3. The plowing must be completed on time, and for this purpose necessary arrangements must be made whereby the farmers without draft animals or equipment may use the facilities of others.

Soil Fertility

1. The authorities concerned shall be responsible for constant soil improvement through extensive research programs. Their responsibilities extend to increased production of "organic" fertilizer, irrigation projects, and proper composition of soil by maintaining proportional percentage of sand and clay, etc.

2. Each farm household is required to produce a minimum of 25 tons of animal and vegetable fertilizers annually according to the following recommended schedules: 20 percent, first quarter; 12 percent, second quarter; 50 percent, third quarter; and 18 percent fourth quarter.

Cultivation

1. The authorities concerned shall be responsible for securing 100-percent rice transplantation during 1950 in the areas where water is sufficient, and for proper distribution of water to the water-shortage areas.

2. The authorities must make the necessary provisions to secure dry-field crops in substitution for rice in the areas where water supply is inadequate and rice growing impossible.

3. The proper moisture in the fields must be maintained. Also, to insure mechanization of farm operation to the fullest extent, the farmers must be taught to adopt new methods of plowing and sowing suitable for mechanical cultivation.

4. The farmers must comply with the following sowing schedules: rice sowing in 7 days, rice transplanting in 15 days, wheat sowing in 12 days, cotton sowing in 10 days, sowing of other seeds, in 10 days from the starting date for sowing, which will be announced officially each year by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Industrial Farm Products

1. The authorities concerned shall be responsible for securing adequate acreage for the farm crops for industrial uses, particularly cotton and hemp. The allocation of acreage for this purpose must be completed by 15 March 1950.

2. The seeds for these crops must be distributed to the selected farmers before the end of February each year.

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Fruit Growing

1. Apple orchards must be increased 1,000 chungbo annually beginning in 1953. For this purpose, the authorities concerned are instructed to make preparations during 1950 to secure apple seedlings and assure additional land for apple orchards on mountain sides and flatlands.

2. The authorities concerned shall take preventive measures to control fruit diseases and supervise such tasks as spraying which must be done on a community cooperative basis.

3. The Minister of Finance and the president of the Farmers Bank may extend financial assistance to the apple growers to purchase the necessary equipment.

Vegetable Growing

The authorities concerned must try to increase the production of vegetables. Their responsibility extends to teaching farmers how to build hot and cold beds and the proper use of fertilizers including human waste.

State Farms

1. The state farms must attempt to achieve maximum production during 1950. The superintendents of state farms must have tractors, plows, seeders, and other equipment ready for operation, as well as adequate supply of seeds of 95 percent purity or better, before the end of March 1950.

2. Each state farm shall be furnished, before 15 March 1950, with 150 metric tons of kerosene, 6.5 metric tons of gasoline, 15 metric tons of motor oil, 2 metric tons of machine oil, and 2 metric tons of grease.

3. The modern farm techniques of the Williams method must be popularized and widely adopted. For this purpose, the P'yongkang Collective Farm and Sinkye Collective Farm shall initiate adoption of the new crop-rotation system from 1951. These farms are instructed to submit written plans for the above project before November 1950.

Technical Advancement

The authorities concerned must strive for constant improvement of agricultural techniques through special training courses in the most up-to-date farm methods given every year for the benefit of all farmers. The education of farmers must be on a continuous basis through the facilities of radio, newspapers, periodicals, and books on farming.

Prevention of Natural Calamities

1. The authorities concerned shall be responsible for prevention of drought damage on farms by periodic inspection of farmlands to determine in advance the degree of possible summer drought and to exercise preventive measures. Where construction of irrigation canals or wells is deemed necessary, the work must be started immediately and be completed by 30 March 1950.

2. The repair or acquisition of new irrigation equipment, including power motors and pumps, must be completed and the equipment ready for use by the end of April 1950.

The Ministry of Transportation may, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, grant special priorities for transportation of all items necessary for the spring planting of 1950.

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The chairman of each provincial people's committee is ordered to call a conference of all the agricultural authorities under his jurisdiction before 20 February 1950, and formulate the necessary plans for execution of the present cabinet decision.

Kim Il-song, Premier
Pak Mun-kyu, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
25 January 1950, P'yongyang

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